

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09241 080432Z

16-11
ACTION EA-10

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O R 070940Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5171
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9241

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,RP, US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS ON US BASES

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: IN JULY 7 SPEECH PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID THAT IN KEEPING
WITH ITS DIGNITY AS SOVEREIGN REPUBLIC, GOP WANTED TO ASSUME CONTROL
OF US BASES AND PUT THEM TO A PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC AS WELL AS
MILITARY USE. STRESSING GOP DESIRE TO END PRACTICE OF "EXTRA-TERRITOR-
IAL-
ITY," MARCOS SAID HE WAS WILLING TO ENTER INTO NEW ARRANGEMENTS
THAT WOULD STILL ALLOW US MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE PRESENCE IN WESTERN
PACIFIC. PRESIDENT SAID THERE WAS NO REASON WHY GOP SHOULD DENY
BASES TO HISTORICAL ALLY WHO MIGHT NEED THEM IN FULFILLING
ASSIGNED ROLE OF MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN THE REGION. MARCOS'
STATEMENT ON US BASES WAS FOCAL POINT OF FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 09241 080432Z

IN WHICH HE CONTENTED FOREMOST IMPERATIVE OF CHANGE FOR GOP IS "SELF-

RELIANCE." PRESIDENT CLAIMED RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA OPENED UP BRIGHT AND EXCITING PROSPECTS AND IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR COMMUNIST STATES OF THE REGION AND OTHER NATIONS TO DEVELOP CORRECT AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP ALTHOUGH INSURGENCIES IN VARIOUS NATIONS WOULD CONTINUE. PRESIDENT STATED GOP SUPPORT FOR EQUILIBRIUM BASED ON QUADRILATERAL POWER BALNCE. GOP WOULD CONTINUE TO ADOPT EQUIDISTANT RELATIONSHIP WITH COMPETITIVE POWERS IN THE AREA PRESIDENT CAUTIONED AGAINST ANY DISRUPTION OF POWER BALANCE HICH EVENTUALLY WOULD MAKE ZONE OF PEACE A REALITY. MARCOS CONCLUDED ADDRESS BY WARNING THAT POVERTY WAS MOST SERIOUS THREAT TO STABILITY OF REGION AND APPEALED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE REGION OF SAME MAGNITUDE THAT SUPPORTED VIETNAM WAR. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 7 PRESIDENT MARCOS MADE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE OF BANKERS HERE UNDER AUSPICES OF LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES. CENTERPIECE OF SPEECH WAS HIS COMMENT ON US BASES. MARCOS SAID THAT WITHOUT COMPROMISING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SELFRESPECT, THERE SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO SUPPORT US EFFORT TO MAINTAIN ITSELF AS A PACIFIC POWER.AFTER REFERENCE TO NEGOTIATIONS ON VARIOUS DEFENSE AGREEMENTS WITH US, PRESIDENT SAID FLATLY HE WANTED END PRACTICE OF "EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY" IN THE PHILIPPINES. GOP WISHED TO ASSUME CONTROL OF BASES AND PUT THEM TO PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC AS WELL AS MILITARY USE. GOP WAS WILLING TO ENTER INTO NEW ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD HELP US MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE PRESENCE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC. EMPHASIZING THERE NO REASON WHY FOREIGN TROOPS SHOULD REMAIN ON PHILIPPINE SOIL AFTER 500 YEARS, MARCOS ADDED THAT THERE WAS ALSO NO REASON WHY GOP WOULD DENY FACILITIES (PRESUMABLY BASES) WHICH HISTORICAL ALLY "MIGHT, OR MUST, NEED IN FULFILLING ITS ASSIGNED ROLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN THE REGION." (COMPLETE TEXT OF MARCOS COMMENTS ON BASES SENT SEPTTEL).

2. MARCOS BEGAN HISSPEECH BY DISCUSSING CHANGES RESULTING FROM LIBERATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES FROM PREVOUS "INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS". THESE CHANGES OPENED BRIGHT AND EXCITING PROSPECTS AND GOP DID NOT REGARD DEFEAT OF US OR OF SAIGON FORCES AS A CATASTROPHE.MARCOS SAW NO REASON WHY COMMUNIST STATES OF INDOCHINA AND OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS COULD NOT DEVELOP A CIVIL AND CORRECT RELATIONSHIP WHICH MIGHT ULTIMATELY LEAD TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. EXT 5 OR 10 YRS WOULD
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PAGE 03 MANILA 09241 080432Z

REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENT BUT MARCOS DID NOT FEEL THERE WOULD BE REQUIREMENT FOR EXPENDITURES TO PROTECT NATION FROM EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. PRESIDENT THOUGHT INSURGENCIES WOULD CONTINUE BUT THAT WOULD BE RESULT OF INDIGENOUS FACTORS. HE SAW NO REASON TO DOUBT PRC ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD NOT SUPPORT LOCAL INSURGENCIES, ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZED EVERY NATION SHOULD BE READY TO DEAL WITH THIS PROSPECT.

3.SPEAKING IN BROADER TERMS, PRESIDENT SAID GOP CONTINUED TO FAVOR EQUILIBRIUM BASED ON THE PRESENT QUADRILATERAL POWER BALANCE AND WAS WARY OF ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT DISRPUT THIS BALANCE. GOP WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAINTAIN EQUIDISTANT RELATIONS WITH "COMPETITIVE POWERS", AND THEREBY ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL WILL GAIN HEADWAY IN AREA.

6. FINAL PORTION OF PRESIDENTS SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. MARCOS EMPHASIZED TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL OF SOUTHEAST ASIA BUT WARNED POVERTY WAS MOST SERIOUSTHREAT TO REGIONAL STABILITY. HE APPEALED TO FOUR POWERS (U.S., SOVIET UNION, PRC, JAPAN) TO HELP MAKE AREA ZONE OF PROSPERITY AS WELL AS ZONE OF NEUTRALITY, FREEDOM AND PEACE. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SAME QUANTITY OF RESOURCES COULD GO INTO SEA DEVELOPMENT AS WENT INTO VIETNAM WAR. IN KEEPING WITH THEME OF SELF-RELIANCE, WHICH HESTRESSED REPEATEDLYTHROUGHOUT HIS ADDRESS, PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS PEOPLES OF REGIONS THEMSELVES WHO MUST BEAR FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGION'S DEVELOPMENT. COMMENT: MARCOS HASSTRESSED NEED TO END "EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY" (WHICH HE NEVER DEFINES) BEFORE, MOST RECENTLY ON JULY 4 DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH CODEL MATSUNAGA, MARCOS SPEDCH IN BAGUIO (SEE MANILA 9164), SUGGESTS GOP STILL ANXIOUS TO CONVEY IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT ON BASES ISSUE. ELEMENTS IN MARCOS'S SPEECH RELATING TO BASES HAVE ALL BEEN HEARD BEFORE BUT THIS IS FIRST TIME PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAS ASSEMBLED THEM IN THIS FASHION AND EXPRESSED THEM SO EXPLICITLY. MARCOS'S DESCRIPTION OF RECENT INDOCHINA EVENTS AS LAST CHAPTER IN COLONIAL HISTORY OF REGION IS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO WIN HIM GOOD WILL IN THIRD WORLD. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON INDIGENOUS NATURE OF INSURGENCY AND REITERATION OF BELIEF THAT PRC SHOULD BE TAKEN AT ITS WORD ABOUT NOT SUPPORTING THESE INSURGENCIES SUGGEST THAT POSSIBILITY OF REVERSE HAPPENING IS STILL VERY MUCH ON PRESIDENT'S MIND. FULL TEXT OF SPEECH WILL BE POUCHED TO EA/PHIL. PURNELL
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PAGE 04 MANILA 09241 080432Z

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